

In claim 5, line 2 replace "the" with --a--.

In claim 8, line 1 replace "4" with --7--.

In claim 8, line 1 replace "the" with --a--.

1 11. (Amended) The device of claim 5 wherein the base of said needle is
2 coupled to a housing having a forward end, said needle extending axially from said
3 forward end of said housing, and wherein said retaining means comprises a latching
4 arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end of said latching arm
5 hingedly attached to said housing, said distal end of said latching arm comprising a
6 protrusion.

1 18. (Amended) The device of claim 16 further comprising retaining means
2 for releasably retaining said needle guard near the base of said needle, wherein said
3 retaining means comprises a latching arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said
4 proximal end of said latching arm hingedly attached to said wall section of said [hub]
5 housing, said distal end of said latching arm comprising a protrusion, said needle guard
6 including a recess for receiving said protrusion.

1 19. (Amended) The device of claim 18 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a finger
3 pad positioned on said latching arm for manually disengaging said latching arm from
4 said needle guard.

1 20. (Amended) The device of claim 18 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a ramp

3 positioned on said latching arm for biasing said latching arm in an outward manner
4 when a rearward force is applied to said needle guard.

1 23. (Amended) The device of claim 21 further comprising retaining means
2 for releasably retaining said needle guard near the base of said needle, wherein said
3 retaining means comprises a latching arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said
4 proximal end of said latching arm hingedly attached to said wall section of said hub,
5 said distal end of said latching arm comprising a protrusion, said needle guard having a
6 recess for receiving said protrusion.[.]

1 24. (Amended) The device of claim 23 further comprising triggering means
3 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a finger
3 pad on said latching arm for manually disengaging said latching arm from said needle
4 guard.

1 25. (Amended) The device of claim 23 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a ramp for
3 biasing said latching arm in an outward manner when a rearward force is applied to
4 said needle guard.

In claim 99, line 2, replace "the" with --a--.

In claim 102, line 1, replace "98" with --101--.

In claim 102, line 1, replace "the" with --a--.

1 105. (Amended) The device of claim 99 wherein the base of said needle is
2 coupled to a housing having a forward end, said needle extending axially from said
3 forward end of said housing, and wherein said retaining means comprises a latching
4 arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end of said latching arm
5 hingedly attached to said housing, said distal end of said latching arm comprising a
6 protrusion.

1 112. (Amended) The device of claim 110 further comprising retaining means
2 for releasably retaining said needle guard near the base of said needle, wherein said
3 retaining means comprises a latching arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said
4 proximal end of said latching arm hingedly attached to said wall section of said [hub]
5 housing, said distal end of said latching arm comprising a protrusion, said needle guard
6 including a recess for receiving said protrusion.

1 113. (Amended) The device of claim 112 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a finger
3 pad positioned on said latching arm for manually disengaging said latching arm from
4 said needle guard.

1 114. (Amended) The device of claim 112 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a ramp
3 positioned on said latching arm for biasing said latching arm in an outward manner
4 when a rearward force is applied to said needle guard.

1 117. (Amended) The device of claim 115 further comprising retaining means
2 for releasably retaining said needle guard near the base of said needle, wherein said
3 retaining means comprises a latching arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said
4 proximal end of said latching arm hingedly attached to said wall section of said hub,
5 said distal end of said latching arm comprising a protrusion, said needle guard having a
6 recess for receiving said protrusion.

1 118. (Amended) The device of claim 117 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a finger
3 pad on said latching arm for manually disengaging said latching arm from said needle
4 guard.

1 119. (Amended) The device of claim 117 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a ramp for
3 biasing said latching arm in an outward manner when a rearward force is applied to
4 said needle guard.

In claim 143, line 2, replace "the" with --a--.

In claim 146, line 1, replace "142" with --145--.

In claim 146, line 1, replace "the" with --a--.

1 149. (Amended) The device of claim 143 wherein the base of said needle is
2 coupled to a housing having a forward end, said needle extending axially from said
3 forward end of said housing, and wherein said retaining means comprises a latching

B7 4 arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end of said latching arm
5 hingedly attached to said housing, said distal end of said latching arm comprising a
6 protrusion.

1 156. (Amended) The device of claim 154 further comprising retaining means
2 for releasably retaining said needle guard near the base of said needle, wherein said
3 retaining means comprises a latching arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said
4 proximal end of said latching arm hingedly attached to said wall section of said [hub]
5 housing, said distal end of said latching arm comprising a protrusion, said needle guard
6 including a recess for receiving said protrusion.

B8 1 157. (Amended) The device of claim 156 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a finger
3 pad positioned on said latching arm for manually disengaging said latching arm from
4 said needle guard.

1 158. (Amended) The device of claim 156 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means, wherein said triggering means comprises a ramp
3 positioned on said latching arm for biasing said latching arm in an outward manner
4 when a rearward force is applied to said needle guard.

B9 1 161. (Amended) The device of claim 159 further comprising retaining means
2 for releasably retaining said needle guard near the base of said needle, wherein said
3 retaining means comprises a latching arm having a proximal end and a distal end, said

4 proximal end of said latching arm hingedly attached to said wall section of said hub,
5 said distal end of said latching arm comprising a protrusion, said needle guard having a
6 recess for receiving said protrusion..

1 162. (Amended) The device of claim 161 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means wherein said triggering means comprises a finger
3 pad on said latching arm for manually disengaging said latching arm from said needle
4 guard.

1 163. (Amended) The device of claim 161 further comprising triggering means
2 for releasing said retaining means wherein said triggering means comprises a ramp for
3 biasing said latching arm in an outward manner when a rearward force is applied to
4 said needle guard.
